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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 002259

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TAGS: [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PREL](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#) [SY](#)

SUBJECT: IRANIAN FM KHARRAZI'S VISIT TO ANKARA: GOT/GOI
VIEWS ON IRAQ CONVERGE

REF: ANKARA 2250

(U) Classified by Ambassador W. Robert Pearson. Reasons 1.5
B and D.

SUMMARY

1. (C) MFA Deputy U/S Tuygan told the Ambassador late April 7 Iranian FM Kharrazi,s April 6 visit to Ankara revealed a congruence of views between the GOT and GOI on Iraq. Kharrazi reportedly requested Gul,s support for re-establishing Turkish-Iranian-Syrian trilateral consultations with Syria, but Gul said Ankara preferred to continue discussions with its neighbors on a bilateral basis. Gul and Kharrazi stressed the importance of maintaining a unified Iraq and the unacceptability of an independent Kurdish state. If there were a refugee crisis with Turkey closing its borders, the Iranians would want to act similarly. But Turkey does not believe Iran would intervene if it reacted to an incident involving PKK/KADEK. Tuygan attempted to dismiss the notion that high-level discussions with Iran and Syria are a result of differences between Washington and Ankara over Iraq, saying it was normal for neighbors to discuss with each other issues of mutual concern. End summary.

2. (C) During his April 7 meeting on Northern Iraq coordination modalities (reftel), the Ambassador solicited from MFA Deputy U/S Tuygan a readout of Iranian FM Kharrazi,s April 6 visit to Ankara. Tuygan said the visit followed FM,s Gul visit to Iran as Prime Minister. PM Erdogan also met with the Iranian FM, but President Sezer was unavailable.

GOT: NO TO TRILATERAL CONSULTATIONS

3. (C) Tuygan averred that by and large, the Turks did not hear &anything unreasonable8 from the Iranians during the visit. Given pursuit of OEF the Iranians were interested in re-establishing trilateral consultations on northern Iraq with the Turks and Syrians, a process Tuygan said had started in the mid-90,s under the leadership of then FM Cem but had ceased. FM Gul reportedly told Kharrazi that for the moment, Turkey preferred to continue discussions with the Iranians and Syrians on a bilateral basis.

GOT/GOI VIEWS ON IRAQ CONVERGE

4. (C) Tuygan said that Gul and Kharrazi talked about a range of bilateral issues, including Iraq. The views of Turkey and Iran are congruent in many respects. Both countries had wished the Iraqi crisis could have been resolved without force, but agreed this had not been possible. Turkey and Iran hope for a prompt end to hostilities in Iraq, and both expressed hope that reconstruction efforts would begin soon. Turkey and Iran agree on the importance of maintaining Iraq,s territorial integrity, and believe the establishment of an independent Kurdish state would be unacceptable. Tuygan added Gul and Kharrazi agreed the establishment of an independent Kurdish state would lead to a &new Middle East crisis,8 including the disintegration of Iraq.

5. (C) Tuygan said Iran shares Turkey,s concerns regarding massive movements of Iraqi refugees. Like Ankara, Tehran would prefer to close its border and address the refugee issue on the Iraqi side of the Iraqi-Iranian border. Tuygan

noted Kharrazi had stressed Iran,s cooperating with ICRC,
UNHCR and other UN organizations.

IRAN UNLIKELY TO INTERVENE IN IRAQ

16. (C) The Ambassador asked Tuygan about the GOI,s current position on PKK/KADEK. Tuygan said Iran recognizes the PKK as a terrorist organization, but not KADEK. Tuygan said that, in response to a request from Gul, Kharrazi had agreed to look into Iran recognizing Kadek as a terrorist organization. Tuygan said following Gul,s discussions with Kharrazi, the MFA does not believe that Iran would intervene in Iraq if the event of an incident involving PKK/KADEK.

FM GUL'S UPCOMING VISIT TO DAMASCUS

17. (C) The Ambassador also asked about Gul,s upcoming visit to Syria. Tuygan replied &it was our turn to visit Syria.8 Gul intends to discuss the normal range of bilateral issues, including Iraq. The Ambassador said some believed Turkey,s current high-level engagement with the Iranians and Syrians stemmed in part from the alleged differences between Washington and Ankara on Iraq. Tuygan tried to dismiss this, saying countries had no choice but to discuss issues of mutual concern with their neighbors. If the three neighbors have overlapping messages, he added, that is not necessarily concertation, but a factor of their shared situations.
PEARSON